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Our Bimonthly Newsletter includes websites from the Electronic Documentation Service, a mechanism for identifying and delivering authoritative but often hard-to-locate and soon-out-of-print reports by a number of different government agencies and private think tanks.

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DEMOCRACY

ELECTION REFORM BRIEFING: THE 2004 ELECTION

electionline.org. December 16, 2004

<http://www.electionline.org/site/docs/pdf/ERIP%20Brief9%20Final.pdf>

In this, its ninth Election Reform Briefing, electionline.org offers an early analysis of what happened, both good and bad, during the U.S. presidential elections on November 2, 2004. Among the positives noted in this report: positive signs as well: U.S. voters had rights they never had before, including provisional ballots, complaint procedures and, in many communities, voting systems that warned of potentially ballot-spoiling errors. But there were negatives, as well - long lines plagued early and election-day voting in a number of states, electronic machine glitches called some results into doubt and differing procedures for provisional ballot counting across state and sometimes county lines could have triggered post-election chaos, had the margin of victory been narrower. The report includes a list of problems, arranged alphabetically by individual state, reported by media on or around election day, as well as a chart of the current status of statewide voter registration databases.

REDEFINING RIGHTS IN AMERICA-THE CIVIL RIGHTS RECORD OF THE GEORGE W. BUSH ADMINISTRATION, 2001-2004

United States Commission on Civil Rights (USCCR). Web-posted November 12, 2004

<http://www.usccr.gov/pubs/bush/bush04.pdf>

This report analyzes scores of policy reports, scholarly papers, briefs and executive orders to chart the current administration's responses to a broad spectrum of civil rights issues. Similar criteria have guided evaluations of previous administrations. The Commission's review is expressed in terms of: (1) whether civil rights enforcement is a presidential priority; (2) federal efforts to eradicate entrenched discrimination; (3) expanding and protecting rights for disadvantaged groups; and (4) promoting access to federal programs and services for traditionally underserved populations.

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

ARGENTINA'S SOVEREIGN DEBT RESTRUCTURING [RL32637]

J. F. Hornbeck

Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service. October 19, 2004

<http://www.ncseonline.org/NLE/CRSreports/04Oct/RL32637.pdf>

In December 2001, after four years of deepening recession and mounting social unrest, Argentina's government collapsed and ceased all debt payments. Argentina has failed to pay before, but this time it registered the largest sovereign default in history. Argentina's total public debt grew from 63% of GDP in late 2001 to a record-breaking and unsustainable 150% following default and devaluation in early 2002. Argentina must restructure over \$100 billion owed to domestic and international bondholders, including \$10 billion of bonds held by U.S. investors.

CENTRAL BANK GOVERNANCE: A SURVEY OF BOARDS AND MANAGEMENT

Tonny Lybek and JoAnne Morris

International Monetary Fund (IMF). December 2004

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/wp/2004/wp04226.pdf>

This analysis identifies issues to consider when designing the structure, size, and composition of the governing boards and management of a central bank. While central bank autonomy and accountability are generally accepted as good practice, there is less consensus regarding the structure, size, and composition of the governing bodies. Lybek and Morris survey 101 central bank laws covering 113 countries and classify the governance structure according to: degree of autonomy; functions performed; size; composition of governing bodies; appointment procedures for members of governing boards and; terms of the members. The report concludes that an appropriate balance must be struck between the functions of the governing entities, simplicity, and country specific factors. The functions of the various bodies follow logically if a greater appreciation exists for the type(s) of autonomy delegated to the central bank.

FINANCIAL REGULATION: INDUSTRY CHANGES PROMPT NEED TO RECONSIDER U.S. REGULATORY STRUCTURE

United States Government Accountability Office (GAO). October 6, 2004. Web-posted November 8, 2004

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d0561.pdf>

The financial services industry has changed significantly over the last several decades. Firms are now generally fewer and larger, provide more and varied services, offer similar products, and operate in increasingly global markets. These developments have both benefits and risks, both for individual institutions and for the regulatory system as a whole. Actions that are being taken to harmonize regulations across countries, especially the Basel Accords and European Union Financial Services Action Plan, are also affecting U.S. firms and regulators.

GLOBAL ECONOMIC PROSPECTS 2005: TRADE, REGIONALISM AND DEVELOPMENT

World Bank. November 16, 2004

<http://globaloutlook.worldbank.org/globaloutlook/outside>

The proliferation of regional trade agreements is fundamentally altering the world trade landscape. There are now over 200 agreements in force. Today as much as 40 percent of global trade takes place among countries that have some form of reciprocal regional trade agreement. This World Bank report addresses two questions: What are the characteristics of agreements that most promote-or hinder-development for member countries? Does the proliferation of agreements pose risks to the multilateral trading system, and if so, how can these risks be managed?

INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GMOS [GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS]: LEGAL FRAMEWORKS AND DEVELOPING COUNTRY CONCERNS

Simonetta Zarrilli

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). November 8, 2004

http://www.unctad.org/en/docs//ditctncd20041_en.pdf

For developing countries agro-biotechnology is a particularly challenging phenomenon. They stand to be the main beneficiaries of it, if agro-biotechnology keeps its promises. But they could also be the main losers if agro-biotechnology negatively affects biodiversity or if patented biotechnology makes access to seeds more difficult or changes the structure of food production systems.

REPORT ON PRESCRIPTION DRUG IMPORTATION

United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), HHS Task Force on Drug Importation. December 21, 2004

<http://www.hhs.gov/importtaskforce/Report1220.pdf>

Currently in the United States the only types of legally imported drugs are: 1) those that are manufactured in foreign Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-inspected facilities and adhere to FDA-approval standards, or 2) those that are U.S.-approved and manufactured in the U.S., sent abroad, then imported back into the U.S. by the manufacturer under proper controls and in compliance with the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic (FD&C) Act. This latter category includes products that are truly re-imported. In both cases, the manufacturing process is subject to direct FDA oversight, the drug distribution system is "closed," and the manufacturer complies with FDA and other regulations to assure that the drug delivered to the pharmacy is of high quality.

RISK & OPPORTUNITY: BEST PRACTICE IN NON-FINANCIAL REPORTING. THE GLOBAL REPORTERS 2004 SURVEY OF CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING

SustainAbility, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Standard & Poor's (S&P). Nov. 1, 2004
<http://www.sustainability.com/publications/engaging/Risk%20&%20Opportunity%202004.pdf>

According to this most recent annual report, corporate boards are failing to disclose to financial investors how environmental and social issues pose strategic risks and opportunities for their businesses. This year's survey finds that only three reports out of the Top 50 assess the balance sheet implications of key environmental and social risks, despite this information being increasingly important to analysts, investors, lenders, insurers and re-insurers.

WORLD EMPLOYMENT REPORT 2004-2005

International Labor Organization (ILO). Web-posted December 7, 2004

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/strat/wer2004.htm>

According to this latest annual report from the International Labor Organization (ILO), the 185.9 million people in the world who were unemployed in 2003 represent the "tip of the iceberg" of the decent work deficit, since more than seven times that number of people are employed but still live in poverty. There are now 1.4 billion people -- half the world's labor force -- trapped in grinding poverty, unable to earn enough to lift themselves and their families above the US\$2 a day poverty line. The report also says this figure could be reduced if governments developed more policies that aim to improve labor productivity and create jobs. Focusing economic policies on creating decent and productive employment opportunities is vital for reducing global poverty as called for in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

EDUCATION

CHRONIC TEACHER TURNOVER IN URBAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

<http://epaa.asu.edu/epaa/v12n42/v12n42.pdf>

The Education Policy Analysis Archives is well regarded for its peer-reviewed articles that deal with a broad range of topics related to education policy, ranging from articles on college graduation rates to developing culturally sensitive teaching materials. One of the most recent articles will be of great interest to those with an interest in the problem of teacher turnover and attrition in urban elementary schools.

CRISIS AT THE CORE: PREPARING ALL STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE AND WORK

ACT. October 14, 2004

http://www.act.org/path/policy/pdf/crisis_report.pdf

[Note: ACT is an independent, not-for-profit organization that provides more than a hundred assessment, research, information, and program management services in the broad areas of education and workforce development.]

According to this new report, many high-school graduates do not have all of the skills to succeed in college-level coursework or workforce training. Among the findings in the report is that only 22 percent of the 1.2 million high school graduates who took the ACT Assessment in 2004 achieved scores that would deem them ready for college in all three basic academic areas - English, math, and science. Since the 1983 U.S. Department of Education report, *A Nation At Risk*, was released, ACT has advocated a "core" curriculum that specifies the number of courses a student should take. This core includes four years of English and three years each of math, natural sciences and social studies. ACT's report argues that "core" is no longer enough to ensure success in college or the workplace.

HOW WELL ARE AMERICAN STUDENTS LEARNING?

http://www.brookings.edu/gs/brown/bc_report/2004/2004report.htm

Released in November 2004, the fifth annual edition of the Brown Center Report on American Education (as it does every year) analyzes the difficulty of items on the math portion of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), examines the content training of middle school math teachers, and evaluates the Blue Ribbon Schools Program. Some of the initial findings from the report are a bit disturbing, as it notes that the math items on the NAEP assessment lack challenging arithmetic, often requiring skills that are several years below grade level. From this page, visitors may download and view the entire report (authored by Tom Loveless), examine a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the report's primary findings, and view the previous five reports, which date back to the year 2000.

LEARNING FOR TOMORROW'S WORLD: FIRST RESULTS FROM PISA [PROGRAM FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ASSESSMENT] 2003

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA). December 6, 2004

<http://www.pisa.oecd.org/dataoecd/1/60/34002216.pdf>

The OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is a collaborative process among the 30 member countries of the OECD and nearly 30 partner countries. It brings together scientific expertise from the participating countries and is steered by their governments on the basis of shared, policy-driven interests. PISA is an unprecedented attempt to measure student achievement, as is evident from some of its features:

- * The literacy approach: PISA aims to define each assessment area (mathematics, science, reading and problem-solving) not mainly in terms of mastery of the school curriculum, but in terms of the knowledge and skills needed for full participation in society.
- * A long-term commitment: It will enable countries to monitor regularly and predictably their progress in meeting key learning objectives.
- * The age-group covered: By assessing 15-year-olds, i.e. young people near the end of their compulsory education, PISA provides a significant indication of the overall performance of school systems.
- * The relevance to lifelong learning: PISA does not limit itself to assessing students' knowledge and skills but also asks them to report on their own motivation to learn, their beliefs about themselves and their learning strategies.

THE 2004 BROWN CENTER REPORT ON AMERICAN EDUCATION: HOW WELL ARE AMERICAN STUDENTS LEARNING?

Tom Loveless

Brookings Institution, Brown Center on Education Policy. November 18, 2004

http://www.brookings.edu/gs/brown/bc_report/2004/2004report.pdf

The National Assessment of Educational Progress, or NAEP as it is commonly known, assesses fourth, eighth, and twelfth grade students in math and reading. Scores on the math assessments have risen dramatically over the last 10 years, indicating that U.S. students are becoming more adept at mathematics. This report finds that math items on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) math assessment lack challenging arithmetic, often requiring skills that are several years below grade level. The findings cast a disturbing light on the highly-publicized math gains as measured by the NAEP assessment. Despite sharply rising test scores on both the NAEP Math and most state math tests, the Brown Center's analysis of the difficulty of the math items at fourth and eighth grade demonstrates that the NAEP test fails to assess essential arithmetic skills that are required for success in algebra and higher mathematics.

ENVIRONMENT

OBSERVED IMPACTS OF GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE U.S.

Camille Parmesan and Hector Galbraith

Pew Center on Global Climate Change. November 9, 2004

<http://www.pewclimate.org/docUploads/final%5FObsImpact%2Epdf>

This new report from the Pew Center on Global Climate Change reviews the broad range of ecological changes that have occurred in the United States in response to humanly induced changes in the global and U.S. climate. Numerous changes have already been observed and these changes have a range of implications for the United

States, its ecosystems, and biodiversity. The responses of plants and animals to a changing climate are indicative of their natural ability to adapt, yet future global warming is likely to exceed the ability of many species to migrate or adjust. Furthermore, one species' success in coping with climate change may be another species' failure. The red fox, for example, is expanding into the range of the arctic fox, forcing the arctic fox into an ever-contracting area.

REEFS AT RISK IN THE CARIBBEAN

Lauretta Burke and Jon Maidens

World Resources Institute (WRI). September 29, 2004

http://pdf.wri.org/reefs_caribbean_full.pdf

According to this new report by scientists at the World Resources Institute (WRI), nearly two-thirds of coral reefs in the Caribbean are threatened by human activities. Additionally, coral reefs are a vital component of coastal defense against the ravages of storms and hurricanes like Frances and Ivan. The report uses WRI's "Reefs at Risk Threat Index", which uses geographic information system (GIS) data to determine reef degradation from four primary sources. This includes coastal developments such as sewage discharge, water-based sediment and pollution coming from fertilizers from farms, marine-based pollution such as those coming from discharges from cruise ships, and over-fishing.

SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT: IMPLEMENTATION AND ISSUES. [IB10118]

Mary Tiemann

Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service. Updated October 13, 2004

<http://www.ncseonline.org/nle/crsreports/04oct/IB10118.pdf>

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), title XIV of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300f-300j-26), is the key federal law for protecting public water supplies from harmful contaminants. First enacted in 1974 and widely amended in 1986 and 1996, the Act is administered through programs that regulate contaminants in public water supplies, provide funding for infrastructure projects, protect sources of drinking water, and promote the capacity of water systems to comply with SDWA regulations. The 1974 law established the current federal-state arrangement in which states and tribes may be delegated primary enforcement and implementation authority (primacy) for the drinking water program by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which is the federal agency responsible for administering the law. The state-administered Public Water Supply Supervision (PWSS) Program remains the basic program for regulating public water systems, and EPA has delegated primacy for this prog!

STATUS OF CORAL REEFS OF THE WORLD: 2004. VOLUMES 1 & 2

Clive Wilkinson, Editor

Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) and International Coral Reef Initiative. December 6, 2004

<http://www.aims.gov.au/pages/research/coral-bleaching/scr2004/pdf/scr2004v1-all.pdf>

<http://www.aims.gov.au/pages/research/coral-bleaching/scr2004/pdf/scr2004v2-all.pdf>

More than two thirds of the world's reefs are severely damaged or under risk of further degradation, and climate change remains the greatest long-term threat to corals, according to this 2004 edition of Status of Coral Reefs of the World. The report compiles the findings of 240 experts from 96 countries, and was published by over twenty organizations. It says 20 per cent of the world's reefs are so damaged that they are unlikely to recover, while another 50 per cent could collapse. If not tackled, global warming could mean their death sentence. The report also shows that reefs that have recently been protected are improving, providing some hope for the future of reefs worldwide.

GLOBAL ISSUES

A DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMIGRANT POPULATION

David Brauer

Congress of the United States. Congressional Budget Office (CBO). November 23, 2004

<http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/60xx/doc6019/11-23-Immigrant.pdf>

The number of foreign-born people in the United States now constitutes 12 percent of the population—the highest share since about 1930. The increase in the number of recently arrived residents (nearly half of the immigrants in the United States have arrived since 1990) has raised broad questions about the potential effects

of immigration on labor markets and economic performance in general. Immigration increases the pressures for federal, state, and local government spending. Immigrants also contribute to the economy and pay taxes. A major question is whether immigration has the potential to lessen the strain on the federal budget as the baby-boom generation retires.

AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION

<http://www.afsp.org/index-1.htm>

With headquarters in New York, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) was established in 1987 in order to create a coherent and combined effort to fund research that would assist in the prevention of suicide. During the past 17 years, the organization has created an extensive network of research grant programs, workshops for those seeking to form survivor support groups, and a suicide data bank. The AFSP website contains information on some of its outreach programs, such as the National Survivors of Suicide Day and also its service announcements.

BRAILLE LITERACY: RESOURCES FOR INSTRUCTION, WRITING EQUIPMENT, AND SUPPLIES

Library of Congress. National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS). Web-posted November 23, 2004

<http://www.loc.gov/nls/reference/circulars/brailledliteracy.html>

[Note: Information on NLS services for U.S. citizens living overseas and to citizens of other countries is available at: <http://www.loc.gov/nls/overseas/index.html>]

This reference circular from the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) lists instructional materials, supplies, and equipment currently available for learning Braille, and cites sources about Braille literacy. The resources given are intended to assist sighted individuals who are interested in learning Braille or want to transcribe print materials into Braille; instructors who teach Braille; persons with visual impairments who are interested in learning to read and write Braille; and family members, friends, and professionals who seek information about Braille literacy.

BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS AND THE DIGITAL DIVIDE: FEDERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS [RL30719]

Lennard G. Kruger

Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service. Updated November 10, 2004

http://www.ipmall.info/hosted_resources/crs/RL30719_041110.pdf

The "digital divide" is a term that has been used to characterize a gap between "information haves and have-nots," or in other words, between those who use or have access to telecommunications technologies (e.g., telephones, computers, the Internet) and those who do not. One important subset of the digital divide debate in the United States concerns high-speed Internet access, also known as broadband. Broadband is provided by a series of technologies (e.g. cable, telephone wire, satellite, wireless) that give users the ability to send and receive data at volumes and speeds far greater than current "dial-up" Internet access over traditional telephone lines.

BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS: BACKGROUND AND ISSUES [IB10045]

Angele A. Gilroy and Lennard G. Kruger

Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service. Updated November 22, 2004

http://www.ipmall.info/hosted_resources/crs/IB10045_041122.pdf

Broadband or high-speed Internet access is provided by a series of technologies that give users the ability to send and receive data at volumes and speeds far greater than usual Internet access over traditional telephone lines. In addition to offering speed, broadband access provides a continuous, "always on" connection (no need to dial-up) and a "two-way" capability, that is, the ability to both receive (download) and transmit (upload) data at high speeds. Wide-scale broadband access, along with the content and services it might enable, has the potential to transform the Internet, both in terms of what it offers and how it is used. It is likely that many of the future applications that will best exploit the technological capabilities of broadband have yet to be developed.

CHILD SOLDIERS GLOBAL REPORT 2004

Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers. November 17, 2004

http://www.child-soldiers.org/document_get.php?id=964

[Note: The Coalition's International Steering Committee member organizations are: Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, International Federation Terre des Hommes, International Save the Children Alliance, Jesuit Refugee Service, the Quaker United Nations Office-Geneva and World Vision International. It maintains active links with UNICEF and the International Committee of the Red Cross.]

This report reviews trends and developments since 2001 in 196 countries. Despite some improvements, says the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, the situation remained the same or deteriorated in many countries. Wars ending in Afghanistan, Angola and Sierra Leone led to the demobilization of 40,000 children, but over 25,000 were drawn into conflicts in Côte d'Ivoire and Sudan alone.

HUMAN-DRIVEN DISASTERS: VIOLENT CONFLICT, TERRORISM AND TECHNOLOGY

Nat J. Colletta

Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). October 2004

<http://www.iadb.org/sds/doc/ENV%2D143CollettaE.pdf>

The author sets out two broad categories of disasters: natural hazards and human-driven disasters. He further classifies the human-driven ones into two basic types: violent confrontations and technological hazards. Violent confrontations include armed conflict and acts of terrorism. Technological disasters are those originated by faulty design, construction or operation of manmade materials and systems. Examples range from structural collapse to explosion, conflagration, pollution, contamination and/or some combination thereof.

HUMANITARIAN CHARTER AND MINIMUM STANDARDS IN DISASTER RESPONSE, REVISED EDITION

Sphere Project. 2004

http://www.sphereproject.org/handbook/hdbkpdf/hdbk_full.pdf

[Note: The Sphere Project is a program of the Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response (SCHR), InterAction, Voluntary Organisations in Cooperation in Emergencies (VOICE) and the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA).]

The aim of the Sphere Project is to improve the quality of assistance provided to people affected by disasters, and to enhance the accountability of the humanitarian organizations in disaster response. The handbook is designed for use in disaster response, and may also be useful in disaster preparedness and humanitarian advocacy. It is applicable in a range of situations where relief is required, including natural disasters as well as armed conflict. It is designed to be used in both slow- and rapid-onset situations, in both rural and urban environments, in developing and developed countries, anywhere in the world. The emphasis throughout is on meeting the urgent survival needs of people affected by disaster, while asserting their basic human right to life with dignity.

INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION NEWS

<http://www.internationaladoptionnews.com/>

Adopting children from other countries around the world can be a rewarding, albeit challenging, opportunity, and some people may feel a bit overwhelmed by starting the process. This website is designed to deal with international adoption issues, and is produced by Dr. Ellen Fitzenrider, who herself is a single mom of a young girl adopted from Vietnam. The site itself is divided into sections that offer articles on international adoption, creating a multicultural family, and an area where visitors can have online discussions and submit questions.

LANDMINE MONITOR REPORT 2004: TOWARD A MINE-FREE WORLD

International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL)

Human Rights Watch (HRW). November 18, 2004

<http://www.icbl.org/lm/2004>

[Note: Contains copyrighted material. See copyright policy at: <http://www.icbl.org/lm/copyright.php>]

According to this new survey, since the international treaty prohibiting antipersonnel landmines took effect five years ago, use of landmines around the world has fallen dramatically, global funding for mine action programs has increased more than 80 percent, more than 1,100 square kilometers of land has been cleared of mines, and the number of new mine victims each year has decreased markedly. Some form of mine clearance was reported in 2003 and 2004 in a total of 65 countries, including the first humanitarian mine clearance operations in Armenia, Chile, Senegal, and Tajikistan. According to Landmine Monitor Report 2004, 83 countries are mine-affected, including 52 State Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty. The Mine Ban Treaty requires State Parties to clear all mined areas within ten years of joining the treaty.

LIVES BLOWN APART: CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN IN TIMES OF CONFLICT

Amnesty International (AI). December 8, 2004

[http://web.amnesty.org/library/pdf/ACT770752004ENGLISH/\\$File/ACT7707504.pdf](http://web.amnesty.org/library/pdf/ACT770752004ENGLISH/$File/ACT7707504.pdf)

Maintaining that women are the major casualties in armed conflicts, this AI report calls for global action to challenge both the violence and the failure of governments to prevent it. The report lays out the global picture revealing a systematic pattern of abuse repeating itself in conflicts all over the world including Colombia, Iraq, Sudan, Chechnya, Nepal and Afghanistan and in 30 other ongoing conflicts. Despite promises, treaties and legal mechanisms, governments have failed to protect women and girls from violence.

PROTECT OR NEGLECT? TOWARD A MORE EFFECTIVE APPROACH TO THE PROTECTION OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

Simon Bagshaw and Diane Paul

Brookings-SAIS Project on Internal Displacement; UN office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Inter-Agency Internal Displacement Division. November 23, 2004

http://www.brookings.edu/fp/projects/idp/protection_survey.pdf

This study finds that the UN's approach to protecting vulnerable populations of internally displaced persons (IDPs) "is still largely ad hoc and driven more by the personalities and convictions of individuals on the ground than by an institutional, system-wide agenda." It notes that staff efforts in the field are often undermined by a lack of political and financial support from headquarters and UN member states. The authors propose that the United Nations make the protection of civilians and the prevention of displacement "a core part of its mandate".

READY OR NOT? PROTECTING THE PUBLIC'S HEALTH IN THE AGE OF BIOTERRORISM -- 2004.

Trust for America's Health (TFAH). December 14, 2004

<http://healthyamericans.org/reports/bioterror04/BioTerror04Report.pdf>

With input from a committee of public health experts, Trust for America's Health (TFAH) researchers have developed 10 key indicators to assess all the states' public health emergency preparedness capabilities. Results are also included for the District of Columbia. Viewed collectively, these indicators provide a composite snapshot of capabilities, improvement and gaps in the individual states' readiness to confront public health emergencies. The main report web site at: <http://healthyamericans.org/reports/bioterror04/> allows users to view results state by state, with discussions of each state's strengths and weaknesses.

THE PRODUCTIVITY ARGUMENT FOR INVESTING IN YOUNG CHILDREN

James Heckman and Dimitriy Masterov

Committee for Economic Development (CED). October 2004; Web-posted December 3, 2004

http://www.ced.org/docs/report/report_ivk_heckman_2004.pdf

In this paper Heckman and Masterov identify a number of factors contributing to the potential decline in future productivity besides high rates of illiteracy and innumeracy. These include relatively more American children—the future workforce—being born into adverse environments and the emergence of new technologies, which have raised the demand for highly skilled workers. If current trends continue, they write, the U.S. economy will add many fewer educated persons to the workforce in the next two decades than it did in the past two decades. On productivity grounds alone, they say, it makes sound business sense to invest in young children from disadvantaged environments. An accumulating body of evidence suggests that early childhood interventions are much more effective than waiting until children are in school or remedies that attempt to compensate for early neglect later in life.

THE STATE OF FOOD INSECURITY IN THE WORLD 2004 [SOFI 2004]

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). December 8, 2004

<ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/007/y5650e/y5650e00.pdf>

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

According to this latest annual report hunger and malnutrition cause tremendous human suffering, kill more than five million children every year, and cost developing countries billions of dollars in lost productivity and national income. Although efforts to reduce chronic hunger in developing countries are not currently on track to meet the World Food Summit and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of cutting by half the number of hungry people in the world by 2015, SOFI 2004 says that the goal can still be attained. The report says that without the direct costs of dealing with the damage caused by hunger, more funds would be available to combat other social

problems: "A very rough estimate suggests that these direct costs add up to around \$30 billion per year - over five times the amount committed so far to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria."

THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S CHILDREN 2005: CHILDHOOD UNDER THREAT

United Nations Fund for Children (UNICEF). Web-posted December 9, 2004

<http://www.unicef.org/sowc05/english/sowc05.pdf>

This report makes clear that despite statements to the contrary, most governments are adopting policies that hurt the world's children rather than help them. This annual State of the World's Children (SOWC) report, "Childhood Under Threat", reveals that more than half the world's children are suffering extreme deprivations from poverty, war and HIV/AIDS, conditions that are effectively denying children a childhood and holding back the development of nations. The report argues that children experience poverty differently from adults and that traditional income or consumption measurements do not capture how poverty actually affects childhood. It offers an analysis of the seven basic "deprivations" that children do feel and which have powerful impacts on their futures.

THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN THE STATES - 2004

Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR). November 16, 2004

<http://www.iwpr.org/States2004/PDFs/National.pdf>

This 2004 report is the fifth edition of the Status of Women in the States biennial series. Since 1996, these reports have served to inform researchers, advocates, and policymakers about advances and gaps in women's economic, social, and political rights. IWPR researchers grades states from A to F in the following categories: Women's Political Participation, Employment and Earnings, Economic Autonomy, Reproductive Rights, and Health. Overall the report rates Vermont, Connecticut, Minnesota and Washington as the "Best States for Women"; Mississippi, South Carolina, Kentucky, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Texas get the dubious distinction of being the "Worst States for Women".

TRENDS IN EDUCATIONAL EQUITY OF GIRLS & WOMEN: 2004

United States Department of Education, National Center on Education Statistics (NCES). Web-posted November 19, 2004

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2005/2005016.pdf>

This statistical report from the Department of Education assembles a series of indicators that examine the extent to which males and females have access to the same educational opportunities, avail themselves equally of these opportunities, perform at similar levels throughout schooling, succeed at similar rates, and reap the same benefits from their educational experiences. According to the data presented in the report, the large academic achievement gaps that once existed between males and females have been eliminated in most cases and have significantly decreased in others.

WORLD POPULATION TO 2300

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (ESA).

Population Division. Web-posted November 6, 2004

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/longrange2/WorldPop2300final.pdf>

The world's population three centuries from now will stabilize at 9 billion if fertility levels continue their decline, particularly in the developing world, but could also top more than 1.3 trillion if they remain unchanged from current rates, according to this new statistical report from the UN's Economic and Social Affairs Department (ESA).

WORLD REPORT ON KNOWLEDGE FOR BETTER HEALTH: STRENGTHENING HEALTH SYSTEMS

World Health Organization (WHO). November 10, 2004

http://www.who.int/rpc/meetings/en/world_report_on_knowledge_for_better_health2.pdf

This World Health Organization (WHO) report focuses on bridging of the "know/do" gap, the gulf between what health science researchers know and what health practitioners do in practice. The bridging of this gap is central to achieving the health-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. According to this report, the "know/do" gap exists for each of the MDGs and represents a fundamental and pragmatic knowledge translation challenge that must be addressed to strengthen health systems performance towards achieving the MDGs.

HIV/AIDS

AIDS EPIDEMIC UPDATE 2004

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the World Health Organization (WHO). November 23, 2004

http://www.unaids.org/wad2004/EPI_1204_pdf_en/EpiUpdate04_en.pdf

This latest annual report by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the World Health Organization (WHO) contains sobering news about the spread of HIV/AIDS in Women. The joint report was released in advance of World AIDS Day (December 1), shows that the number of women living with HIV has risen in each region of the world over the past two years, with the steepest increases in East Asia, followed by Eastern Europe and Central Asia. In East Asia, there was a 56% increase over the past two years, followed by Eastern Europe and Central Asia with 48% increases.

COMMON GOALS, SHARED RESPONSES: A STUDY OF THE PAN CARIBBEAN PARTNERSHIP AGAINST HIV/AIDS (PANCAP)

Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS); World Health Organization (WHO); and Caribbean Community (CARICOM). December 13, 2004

http://www.unaids.org/html/pub/publications/irc-pub06/jc1089-pancap_en_pdf.pdf

[Note: PANCAP is the umbrella mechanism, which brings together key partners to accelerate the response against the spread of AIDS in the Caribbean. Created three years ago, it is one of the first multi-sectoral, multi-level regional AIDS partnerships in the world]

The Caribbean is the second worst-affected region by AIDS after sub-Saharan Africa. According to UNAIDS estimates, 440,000 people are living with HIV in the Caribbean, and AIDS has become the leading cause of death among adults aged 15-44. The rate of infection among women is also rising steadily. As in other regions of the world, the epidemic is more than a health issue – it is an unprecedented threat to the social and economic development of the Caribbean. In its response to AIDS in its three years of existence, PANCAP's achievements include: political mobilization at the highest levels; significant new international resource mobilization; global visibility for the region in putting the issue on the international agenda and an expanded and strengthened response to AIDS with the inclusion of more than 70 institutions in its membership.

THE MACROECONOMICS OF HIV/AIDS

Markus Haacker, Editor

International Monetary Fund (IMF). Web-posted December 1, 2004

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/AIDS/eng/index.htm>

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

Through its demographic effects and its social and economic consequences, HIV/AIDS is a major threat to economic development in many countries. In recognition of this fact, this is the first major report published by the IMF to focus specifically on a public health issue. The volume brings together contributions by experts from a variety of international organizations and other institutions, who formulate and implement policy responses to the epidemic or deal with its social and economic consequences. It is written for a broad readership, including officials in international organizations, donor agencies, implementing agencies, and country governments who formulate and carry out policies to fight the epidemic, and representatives of NGOs advocating an expanded response to HIV/AIDS worldwide.

WOMEN, HIV/AIDS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Amnesty International (AI). November 24, 2004

[http://web.amnesty.org/library/pdf/ACT770842004ENGLISH/\\$File/ACT7708404.pdf](http://web.amnesty.org/library/pdf/ACT770842004ENGLISH/$File/ACT7708404.pdf)

According to this report, one major reason why significantly more young women than men are now being infected by HIV/AIDS is the fact that violence against women and girls fuels the spread of the virus. Violence is a key factor in women's risk of contracting the virus. Studies suggest that the first sexual experience of a girl will often be forced and we know that one in five women will be a victim of rape or attempted rape in her lifetime. Traditional practices such as genital mutilation, early marriage, and the practice of newly bereaved widows being 'inherited' by other male relatives also increases women's exposure to the virus.

LAW ENFORCEMENT/SECURITY/ILLEGAL DRUGS

A MORE SECURE WORLD: OUR SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

United Nations, High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change. December 2, 2004

<http://www.un.org/secureworld/report.pdf>

Former Prime Minister Anand Panyarachun of Thailand chaired a high-level group that researched and wrote this report. The panel of 16 former heads of State, foreign ministers and security, military, diplomatic and development officials reaffirms the right of States to defend themselves, including pre-emptively when an attack is imminent, and says that in the case of "nightmare scenarios" – for instance those combining terrorists and weapons of mass destruction – the UN Security Council may have to act earlier, more proactively and more decisively than in the past.

ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS FOR MONEY SERVICES BUSINESSES WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN AGENTS OR FOREIGN COUNTERPARTIES. INTERPRETIVE RELEASE 2004-1

United States Department of Treasury. Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) December 8, 2004

<http://www.fincen.gov/msbagentadvisory.pdf>

Since April 2002, Money Services Businesses have been required to establish anti-money laundering programs to guard against money laundering and terrorist financing. Today's Guidance specifically requires that, to the extent a Money Services Business (MSB) uses relationships with foreign agents and counterparties to facilitate the movement of funds into or out of the United States, the Money Services Business' anti-money laundering program must reasonably address the risks of money laundering and the financing of terrorism posed those relationships with foreign agents or foreign counterparties. The Guidance applies only to Money Services Businesses required to register with FinCEN, as these are the entities most likely to use foreign agents or foreign counterparties in their operations.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT, 2003

Thomas P. Bonczar and Tracy L. Snell

U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs. Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) November 14, 2004

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/cp03.pdf>

This publication presents characteristics of persons under sentence of death in the United States on December 31, 2003, and of persons executed in 2003. Preliminary data on executions by States during 2004 are included, and the report summarizes the movement of prisoners into and out of death sentence status during 2003. Numerical tables present data on offenders' sex, race, Hispanic origin, education, marital status, age at time of arrest for capital offense, legal status at time of capital offense, methods of execution, trends, and time between imposition of death sentence and execution.

COMPUTER INTRUSION CASES

United States Department of Justice, Criminal Division. Computer Crime & Intellectual Property Section (CCIPS). Updated December 17, 2004

<http://www.usdoj.gov/criminal/cybercrime/cccases.html#INTL>

This chart summarizes information concerning computer intrusion cases prosecuted in the U.S. from 1998 to the present. Many cases were prosecuted under the authority of 18 U.S.C. 1030, "Fraud and Related Activity in Connection with Computers", which outlines unauthorized access and other types of computer fraud, as well as penalties for transmitting worms and other harmful payloads. The chart includes basic data about the cases, including: "Interest Harmed"; Estimated Dollar Loss"; "Target"; "Perpetrator Charged"; "Geography" [whether or not the case involved international actors]; and "Punishment". Links from each case name leads to a Department of Justice press release describing the case in more detail.

ELECTRONIC GOVERNMENT: FEDERAL AGENCIES HAVE MADE PROGRESS IMPLEMENTING THE E-GOVERNMENT ACT OF 2002 [GAO-05-12]

United States Government Accountability Office (GAO). December 10, 2004; Web-posted December 23, 2004

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d0512.pdf>

The E-Gov Act was enacted into law on December 17, 2002. The act's provisions add to a variety of previously established statutory requirements regarding federal information and information technology (IT) management, such as the Paperwork Reduction Act, which also prescribes responsibilities within the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for overseeing information and IT management in the federal government. Title II of the E-Gov

Act contains 16 sections that include a range of provisions aimed at promoting electronic government services and increasing citizen access to and participation in government. The sections of Title II address such topics as maintaining and promoting a federal Internet portal to make government information more accessible to the public, protecting the privacy of personal information, establishing a framework for use of electronic signatures for secure transactions with government, and providing online access to documents filed electronically with!

EMBASSY CONSTRUCTION: PROPOSED COST-SHARING PROGRAM COULD SPEED CONSTRUCTION AND REDUCE STAFF LEVELS, BUT SOME AGENCIES HAVE CONCERNS [GAO-05-32]

United States Government Accountability Office (GAO). November 15, 2004

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d0532.pdf>

The Department of State is in the early stages of a proposed multibillion dollar program to build secure new embassies and consulates around the world. To help finance construction, the administration has proposed the Capital Security Cost-Sharing Program, under which agencies with staff assigned to overseas diplomatic missions would pay a portion of the construction costs. A provision authorizing the program is included in legislation currently under consideration by the Congress [H.R. 4754, Sec. 625, Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2005]. If enacted, the program is scheduled to go into effect in fiscal year 2005 and would represent a major shift in how the U.S. government allocates funding for embassy construction, as State historically has paid for nearly the entire program.

HATE CRIME STATISTICS, 2003

United States Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). November 22, 2004

<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/03hc.pdf>

According to this report, antagonism toward a particular race, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity/national origin, or physical or mental disability prompted crimes against 9,100 victims in the U.S. during 2003. The data are aggregated from hate crime reports submitted by local, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies throughout the nation. A review of the data by incident showed that almost all of the incidents were classified as single-bias (involving only one bias motivation). A breakdown of the single-bias incidents by the type of bias revealed that 51.4 percent were motivated by racial bigotry, 17.9 percent were caused by religious intolerance, 16.6 percent were the result of a sexual-orientation bias, and 13.7 percent were triggered by an ethnicity/national origin bias. The remainder involved a bias against a disability.

HOMELAND SECURITY: PROTECTING AIRLINERS FROM TERRORIST MISSILES

Christopher Bolkcom, Andrew Feickert and Bartholomew Elias

Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service. Updated October 22, 2004

<http://www.fas.org/irp/crs/RL31741.pdf>

Recent events have focused attention on the threat that terrorists with shoulder-fired surface-to-air missiles (SAMs), referred to as Man-Portable Air Defense Systems (MANPADS), pose to commercial airliners. Most believe that no single solution exists to effectively mitigate this threat. Instead, a menu of options may be considered, including installing infrared (IR) countermeasures on aircraft; modifying flight operations and air traffic control procedures; improving airport and regional security; and strengthening missile non-proliferation efforts. Equipping aircraft with missile countermeasure systems can protect the aircraft even when operating in areas where ground-based security measures are unavailable or infeasible to implement. However, this option has a relatively high cost, between \$1 million and \$3 million per aircraft, and the time needed for implementation does not allow for immediate response to the existing terrorist threat.

IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT: DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY HAS INCORPORATED IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT OBJECTIVES AND IS ADDRESSING FUTURE PLANNING REQUIREMENTS

United States Government Accountability Office (GAO). October 8, 2004. Web-posted November 8, 2004

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d0566.pdf>

After the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and other federal agencies began merging their law enforcement functions into the U.S. Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) within the Department of Homeland Security. Congress asked GAO for information on how the newly formed ICE was addressing legacy INS's immigration enforcement objectives. GAO addressed the following questions: (1) What is the status of ICE's efforts to incorporate legacy INS's interior immigration enforcement objectives? (2) How is ICE developing budget needs, workforce plans, and performance measures

for immigration-related objectives? GAO found that although ICE does not have a formal, distinct interior enforcement strategy, all of the objectives contained in the legacy INS interior enforcement strategy have been incorporated within a broader mission aimed at strengthening homeland security through joint customs and immigration investigations.

INTELLIGENCE ISSUES FOR CONGRESS [IB10012]

Richard A. Best, Jr.

Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service. Updated December 9, 2004

<http://www.fas.org/irp/crs/IB10012.pdf>

[Note: This is an updated version of ADSURLS Item #04AD024, updated October 6, 2003]

On December 7, the House passed the Intelligence Reform Act (S. 2845) after several months of consideration and a lengthy conference.

[See: http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=108_cong_bills&docid=f:s2845enr.txt.pdf for the text of the enrolled version of S. 2845.] The Senate followed suit on the following day. The legislation encompasses many of the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission and makes significant structural changes in the Intelligence Community and creates the position of Director of National Intelligence separate from the Director of the CIA. [President Bush signed the bill into law on December 17, 2004.] Also on December 7, the House passed the Intelligence Authorization Act for FY2005 (H.R. 4548). The Senate passed the bill on December 8 [See: http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=108_cong_bills&docid=f:h4548enr.txt.pdf for the text of the enrolled version of H.R. 4548].

INTELLIGENCE REFORM AND TERRORISM PREVENTION ACT OF 2004. CONFERENCE REPORT TO ACCOMPANY S. 2845

United States Congress. Updated December 8, 2004

<http://www.house.gov/rules/s2845confrept.pdf>

This is the agreement reached by the congressional conference committee called together to iron out the differences between the original version of Senate Bill 2845 (S.2845.PP; see text of original bill at: http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=108_cong_bills&docid=f:s2845pp.txt.pdf) and the version of that bill as engrossed and amended by the House of Representatives (S.2845.EAH; see text of that version at:

http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=108_cong_bills&docid=f:s2845eah.txt.pdf)

Based on the recommendations of the 9-11 Commission, this enormous legislative measure, among other provisions, creates a new position -- Director of National Intelligence (DNI) -- to serve as the principal intelligence advisor to the president, and to coordinate the collection and analysis of intelligence by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and 14 other USG intelligence agencies. Other provisions of the bill deal with border security and immigration issues, homeland security and incident preparedness and increased transportation security. Note that the conference report contains revised language on public diplomacy, including exchange programs and foreign media outreach. See Sections 7109-7113 of the report.

INTERNET GAMBLING: OVERVIEW OF FEDERAL CRIMINAL LAW. [97-619 A]

Charles Doyle

Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service. November 29, 2004

http://www.ipmall.info/hosted_resources/crs/97-619_041129.pdf

In the United States gambling has traditionally been a matter for state law, usually overseen by state gambling or gaming commissions. State officials and others have expressed concern that the Internet may be used to bring illegal activities into their jurisdictions, thereby introducing gambling elements from other states or from other countries. Illicit Internet gambling implicates at least six federal criminal statutes.

OTHER

LINKS TO KEY DOCUMENTS IN AMERICAN HISTORY

Digital History. Updated December 1, 2004

http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/other_documents/other_documents.cfm

[Note: Digital History is a project developed by partnerships among the University of Houston, the Chicago Historical Society, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, the Houston Museum of Fine Arts, the U.S.

Department of the Interior's National Park Service and the Project for the Active Teaching of American History] This URL below is not to a single document, but links to a portal of dozens of documents that are central in the history of the United States. The documents are listed in chronological order, from the Magna Carta to Kenneth Starr's Independent Council's Report on President Bill Clinton. There is a very wide selection of documents, from declarations to presidential address to statutes to memoirs from periods such as the California Gold Rush. A very useful resource for American Studies programs, for speechwriters seeking the exact wording of an historic presidential speech, or for researchers who need the text of eighteenth- and nineteenth- century legislation.

STATISTICAL ABSTRACT OF THE UNITED STATES, 2004-2005

United States Department of Commerce. Bureau of the Census. December 9, 2004

<http://www.census.gov/prod/www/statistical-abstract-04.html>

The Statistical Abstract of the United States, published since 1878, is the standard summary of statistics on the social, political, and economic organization of the United States. It is designed to serve as a convenient volume for statistical reference and as a guide to other statistical publications and sources. The latter function is served by the introductory text to each section, the source note appearing below each table, and Appendix I, which comprises the "Guide to Sources of Statistics", the "Guide to State Statistical Abstracts", and the "Guide to Foreign Statistical Abstracts".

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